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January 20, 2006

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Room 3E880
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

I write today as a follow-up to a discussion I had with President George W. Bush concerning the merits of releasing Iraqi military documents and photographs recovered by U.S. military personnel operating in Iraq. As you may be aware, *The Weekly Standard* has published several stories on these documents and the information contained within connecting Saddam Hussein to the training of Islamic terrorists.

As you may be aware, I recently gave a speech at the Valley Forge Military Academy in Pennsylvania concerning ongoing Coalition military operations in Iraq and the reason why we must prevail. In my speech, I noted that U.S. and Coalition forces are fighting the forces of radical Islam and those who seek to overthrow the values and beliefs that civilized nations cherish. In short, this is a battle we cannot afford to lose.

Among the points highlighted in a recent *The Weekly Standard* article:

The photographs and documents on Iraqi training camps come from a collection of some 2 million 'exploitable items' captured in postwar Iraq and Afghanistan. They include handwritten notes, typed documents, audiotapes, videotapes, compact discs, floppy discs, and computer hard drives...Nearly three years after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, only 50,000 of these 2 million 'exploitable items' have been thoroughly examined.

It is my understanding that many of the translated and analyzed documents have been entered into a government database known as "HARMONY." It has been brought to my attention that previous requests to release information from the HARMONY database have been rejected.

In light of recent reports on the pace to translate and analyze captured documents, I urge you to accelerate efforts to examine these documents by devoting additional personnel to efforts to translate and investigate these captured Iraqi documents and photographs. With U.S. and Coalition forces actively engaged in Iraq, I urge that analysis of these documents be made a top priority within the Department of Defense.

In addition, I believe that releasing or making public documents captured in Iraq that highlight the connection between the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein and Islamic terrorists would be

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beneficial to help the American people understand the reasons for our involvement in Iraq and the reason we must prevail against this threat to the democratic world.

However, in the interest of national security, I support any decision by the Department of Defense to redact or delete information in these captured documents that would jeopardize our troops or intelligence collection methods if made public.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Rick Santorum
United States Senate

RJS/gb